

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3487

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR: OPPOSITION DEMANDS

1. DIRGEN AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU YAMAZAKI, ON INSTRUCTIONS, CALLED ME TO FOREIGN OFFICE EVENING OF MARCH 8 TO CONVEY TO USG THE VIEWS AND DEMANDS OF THE OPPOSITION AS EXPRESSED IN A DAY-LONG SERIES OF MEETINGS OF OPPOSITION AND GOVERNMENT PARTY WHIPS (CHAIRMEN OF THE KOKKAI TAISAKU IINKAI). YAMAZAKI PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY NOTING THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S STATEMENT BEFORE THE PROXMIRE SUB-COMMITTEE HAD PROVOKED STRONG REPERCUSSIONS IN THE DIET. READING FROM A ROUGH DRAFT, YAMAZAKI STATED THAT THE PRINCIPAL CONTENTIONS OF THE OPPOSITION WERE AS FOLLOWS: A) IF THE CONTENT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S REPLY TO PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S LETTER IS SIMILAR TO THE INGERSOLL STATEMENT, THIS WILL POSE A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN VIEW OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL RELEVANT MATERIALS WHICH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND DIET SEEK TO UPHOLD. IT IS DEMANDED THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT URGE THE USG TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON THE CONDITIONS FOR THE RELEASE OF RELEVANT MATERIALS; AND B) THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE DIET ON THE LOCKHEED PROBLEM REQUIRES THAT QTE ALL UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS UNQTE BE DELIVERED TO BOTH HOUSES OF THE DIET. IN REPLYING TO THESE VIEWS, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY STATED THAT WHEN THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT RE-

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CEIVES PRESIDENT FORD'S REPLY TO PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S LETTER, IT

WILL GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE ATTITUDE WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN TOWARD SUCH PROBLEMS.

2. AT A PRESS BACKGROUNDER IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 8, FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA STATED THAT THE VIEWS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES EXPRESSED IN THESE MEETINGS WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE USG. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SUCH ACTION DID NOT IMPLY THAT THE GOJ HAS SIMILAR VIEWS ON THE USG POSITION AS OUTLINED IN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, MIYAZAWA RESPONDED THAT QTE WE WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT THESE ARE THE VIEWS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES IN THE DIET UNQTE (I.E., NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT).

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THE OPPOSITION AND EDITORIAL REACTION TO THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, THE GOVERNMENT UNDOUBTEDLY FEELS THAT WILL ENCOUNTER SOME VERY ROUGH GOING IN ACCEPTING THE MATERIAL ON THOSE TERMS. THIS RATHER UNUSUAL EXERCISE OF CONVEYING THE OPPOSITION'S VIEWS TO THE USG CLEARLY SEEMS PART OF AN EFFORT TO PREPARE DEFENSES FOR SUCH A CONTINGENCY BY SHOWING THAT THE GOVERNMENT ENDEAVORED TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION THOSE VIEWS, AT THE SAME TIME BEING CAREFUL NOT TO ENDORSE THEM.
SHOESMITH

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